

WHAT IS CERT ?

Local government prepares for and responds to many emergencies in the county. However, during a disaster, the number and scope of incidents can overwhelm conventional emergency services. The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program involves all-hazard training for citizens in the community. This valuable course is designed to help protect your family and your neighborhood in emergency situations.



CERT is a realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens may initially be "on their own" and their actions can make a difference. Persons without training will respond to others in need. One goal of **CERT** is to train them to do so effectively and efficiently without placing anyone in unnecessary danger. In **CERT**, citizens will learn how to:

- Manage utilities. (Cutting utilities off)
- Put out small fires. (Use of a fire extinguisher)
- Administer Disaster First Aid.
- Search for & rescue victims.
- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.
- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

Have you ever seen one of these before?



If you have gas in your home, then you should know where this equipment is located. It is a **GAS METER**. Do you know how to shut it off in case of an emergency? You should!

Do you know about **DISASTER FIRST AID**? We have experts that can show you the basics.



Have you ever tried to use a **FIRE EXTINGUISHER**? What if there was a small fire and the fire department couldn't reach you right away? Do you know how to extinguish a fire before firefighters arrive?



Do you have an **EMERGENCY DISASTER KIT** in your home? Do you know the items needed? **CERT** can advise you what is needed!

How long is the course?

The **CERT** program is 16 hour instructional course and is taught in a time schedule to meet your community needs. We can bring the class to your organization or group. We have teams established to teach **CERT**. Each instruction team has instructors with expertise from many different professions such as the Nashville Fire Department, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Metropolitan Health Department, and many more. They will teach your community group, organization, neighborhood watch group or you how to be prepared for an **EMERGENCY**.

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Informational Websites:

Mayor's Office of Emergency Management:
www.nashville.gov/oem

National Weather Service:
(Key in zip code at top of page)
www.nws.noaa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency
(Click on the tab that says Emergency Personnel then click on CERT)
www.fema.com



How did CERT start?

1985: The idea to train volunteers from the community to assist emergency service personnel during large natural disasters began. In February of 1985, a group of Los Angeles City officials went to Japan to study its extensive earthquake preparedness plans. Single-function neighborhood teams were trained in either fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.

In September 1985, a Los Angeles City investigation team was sent to Mexico City following an earthquake there that registered a magnitude 8.1 on the Richter scale and killed more than 10,000 people and injured more than 30,000. Mexico City had no training.

The lessons learned in Mexico City strongly indicated that a plan to train volunteers to help themselves and others, and become an adjunct to government response, was needed as an essential part of overall preparedness, survival, and recovery.

1986: The City of Los Angeles Fire Department developed a pilot program to train a group of leaders in a neighborhood watch organization. A concept developed involving multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search & rescue, and first aid. The first team of 30 people completed training in early 1986 and proved that the concept was viable through various drills, demonstrations, and exercises. Expansion of the program, however, was not feasible due to limited City resources, until an event occurred in 1987 that impacted the entire area.

1987: On October 1, 1987, the Whittier Narrows earthquake vividly underscored the threat of an entire area-wide major disaster, and demonstrated the need to expedite the training of civilians to prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies.

1993: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to make the concept and program available to communities nationwide. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in cooperation with the LAFD, expanded the CERT materials to make them applicable to all hazards.

2002: In January 2002, CERT became part of the Citizen Corps, a unifying structure to link a variety of related volunteer activities to expand a community's resource for crime prevention and emergency response.

2003: As of July 2003, 48 states and six foreign countries are using CERT training.

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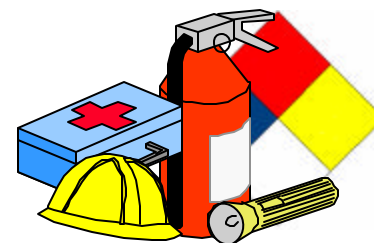
Bill Purcell, Mayor



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Community Emergency
Response Team

CERT



Metro Nashville

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a cooperative effort between the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Office of Neighborhoods, other Metropolitan Agencies and Corporate Sponsors to educate and train the community on response and recovery efforts during catastrophic events in Metro/Nashville.

For more information contact:
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